

I taught high school journalism many years ago, when consolidation of media was just beginning to get notice, when most media honored their promise to serve the public weal. News Corp (CEO) Stein (?) wrote a magazine essay about the growing danger to our democracy. The old man must be turning over in his grave over the misuse of media power.

I deplore Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election. I believe this calls for immediate action by the FCC. Pulling their license will send a message to all media emperors.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.